

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status Summary

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Ramfelt (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,338).

Request for Reconsideration

The claim 1 recites the limitation of “**setting a plurality of interruption points each at a location farthest from a unique one of the switches**”. The Office states that the interrupt point as a furthest point of the network, and Ramfelt discloses determining the shortest distance based on the location of the ring, it meets the claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The interrupt point, as recited in the claim, is a **predetermined** point for routing any packets, and it is the point only at a location **farthest** from each switch. Ramfelt discloses neither any predetermined points nor any points only located at the farthest location.

Ramfelt discloses a method of determining and selecting a shorter path between D1 (counter clockwise/outer ring) and D2 (clockwise/inner ring). Ramfelt discloses selecting the path by selecting a small value between a first value and a second value. The first value is the chronological number of the destination node minus the chronological number of the source node. The second value is the chronological number of the source node plus the total number of nodes in the ring topology 12 (D1, outer ring) minus the chronological number of the destination node (Ramfelt, column 8, lines 3-11). In the provided example, Ramfelt discloses that the path D2 is selected because the second value, which is the chronological number of the source node plus the total number of nodes in the ring topology 12 (D1, outer ring) minus the chronological number of the destination node, is smaller. Thus, Ramfelt provides no

predetermined points located at the **farthest location** for determining the packet traveling path. Therefore, Ramfelt does not disclose every recited limitation as required under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Conclusion

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. In view of the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests a favorable reconsideration and issuing allowance accordingly. Examiner is invited to contact the attorney on record to expedite the prosecution in pursuance of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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